

Intervention and Exploitation: US and UK Government International Actions Since 1945

South America





U.S.



U.K.



U.S. and U.K.

**Colombia | Venezuela | Guyana | Suriname | Ecuador | Peru |
Brazil | Bolivia | Chile | Paraguay | Argentina | Uruguay |
Falkland Islands**

Colombia

Summary

1988-present: Since at least 1988 the US has been interfering with Colombia's internal politics and backing state sponsored and paramilitary violence, well beyond its legal involvement in the "war on drugs" or anything justifying the rape of another South American country, considering the military we're supporting is part of the drug racket and that the people profiting the most off the trade, both in arms and drugs, are Americans.

The violence between FARC and the Colombian military/paramilitary has pushed Colombia's inhabitants deep into poverty, causing cocoa production to explode as farmers move away from what is now unsustainable crop development, exacerbated further by US scorched earth policies, carried out by DynCorp. Caught in the middle of the violence are various Colombian autonomous municipalities. According to the UN there are some 720,000 refugees in Colombia, and many have spilled over into neighbouring nations.

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"In Colombia, it is well known that those who profit the most from the drug trade are members of the armed forces, the police, government officials, and the "big businessmen" of the urban centers.

The FARC taxes coca, a far cry from trafficking. The FARC also taxes gas, peanuts and furniture.

Coca also is the only crop left that keeps the campesinos' heads above water. The peasant who grows standard crops will have an average annual income of around \$250 a year. With coca, they can feed a family on \$2,000 a year. These are not robber barons. ...

After reflection on my two decades plus of service, I am convinced that I only served the richest one percent of my country."

--Master Sgt. Stan Goff, Special Forces: My Life in the Army

[1]

Venezuela

2002:

April - US government is behind coup which overthrows the democratically elected president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez. Popular protest returns Chavez to power a few days later. [1]

Guyana

Summary

1947-1949: Unrest and strikes.

1953: Britain sends in troops after PPP wins election.

1957: Britain retains control.

1959-1960: USA undermines PPP government.

1961: Britain loosens internal control.

1962: US backs violent opposition, UK plays along.

1963: US and UK back opposition.

1964: PPP wins elections, UK installs opposition instead.

1966: Guyana becomes member of the British Commonwealth.

1970: Guyana becomes a republic within the British Commonwealth.

1980: New constitution.

1985: Economy deteriorates.

1992: PPP wins first free elections since independence.

1998: Government declares state of emergency in Georgetown.

2003: Wave of violent crime.

1947-1949:

Poor social conditions, discrimination and lack of democracy lead to increasing unrest and several strikes. [5]

1953:

October - Britain suspends Guyana's constitution, sends in troops and installs an interim administration after democratic elections for parliament produces a result not to its liking - a victory for the left-wing Indo-Guyanese People's Progressive Party (PPP). [1] [2]

An interim government is installed which tries, unsuccessfully to break up the PPP. [5]

1957:

Britain restores the Guyanese constitution, under which a largely elected Legislative Council governs, but ultimate control is retained by the British Governor. PPP splits along racial lines, with Cheddi Jagan leading a mostly Indian party and Forbes Burnham leading a party of African descendants, the People's National Congress (PNC). Despite manipulation of constituency boundaries by the interim government, Jagan's PPP wins 9 of the 14 Council seats. [2] [5]

1959-1960:

The USA seeks to undermine the PPP government by supporting chosen opposition parties and union organisations. This is funded by US business men and the CIA. [5] [6]

1961:

Guyana is granted internal self governance, with Britain retaining control over external and defence matters; Jagan of the PPP becomes prime minister. [2] [5]

1962:

Arthur Schlesinger, U.S. Secretary of State visits British Guiana and concludes that Dr. Jagan's heart is with the Communist world, and although all alternatives to Dr. Jagan are terrible, he feels that if Mr. Burnham 'will commit himself to a multi-racial policy' an independent British Guiana under him would cause the U.S. fewer problems than one under Dr. Jagan. [3]

Jagan announces a budget which is widely praised by international commentators, but the opposition, led by Burnham, condemn it and use it as an excuse to incite violent protests. In this he is supported by the TUC who receive support from certain US union groups funded by the CIA. The British Governor initially refuses to send troops to quell the disturbances, but eventually does so after arson, looting and deaths in the capital. Jagan is forced to withdraw the budget.

Tacitly supported by the UK government, Burnham blocks all negotiations for independence and presses for elections by proportional representation, which he believes can be worked in his favour. [5]

Venezuela, pressurised by the USA, renews its claims to a part of Guyana. This puts further pressure on Guyana's government. [2] [5]

1963:

Further violent protests are fomented by the opposition parties, TUC and big business. Weapons and documents are found which show that the PNC, Burnham's party, is contemplating a violent coup. Reports on this are suppressed by the Governor. [5]

June 21 - As U.S. President John Kennedy and a high powered team prepares for a meeting with British Prime Minister Harold McMillan and his team at Birch Grove in the U.K., the State Department instructs its U.K. embassy by telegram to let it be known that McMillan had agreed that H.M.G. no longer has any faith in Dr. Jagan, preferring Mr. Burnham as the more manageable alternative. At the Birch Grove meeting, it is decided to establish a Burnham-D'Aguiar Government and grant British Guiana independence. [3] [4]

November - Negotiations on independence commence, but Burnham and D'Aguiar block all compromise. In the face of this deadlock, the British chairman of the negotiations settles the matter by giving the opposition everything they ask for. There are to be new elections based on proportional representation a full year before the PPP's term has expired. A date for independence is not set, apparently in case the election doesn't go as planned. [5]

Despite all this, Jagan's government manages to considerably improve the lot of much of the population, making advances in agriculture, health and education. [5]

1964:

Sugar workers strike for the right to choose which union represents them. Racial violence ensues and the governor detains several PPP members of the legislature. This reduces the PPP to a minority in the legislature. The violence continues until arms and explosives are discovered in the possession of a PNC activist. [5]

The USA funds several opposition parties in the elections, apparently to try to undermine the PPP vote. [5] The PPP win the elections taking 45.8% of the votes, as opposed to the 40.5% taken by Burnham's PNC and the 12.4% taken by D'Aguiar's UF. However the PPP do not have an outright majority, so Jagan tries to form a coalition with Burnham. Burnham refuses. The British Colonial Secretary puts a change to the Guyana constitution through the British Parliament so that Jagan can be dismissed as Premier. The Queen then orders this dismissal and the Governor installs Burnham as Premier, who then forms a coalition with D'Aguiar. [5]

1965:

Control of the state of emergency is handed by the Governor to Burnham. Burnham extends the state of emergency, leaving the PPP with no influence in government. [5]

Burnham and D'Aguiar draw up proposals for independence and a new constitution, without any PPP input. [5]

1966:

Guyana becomes an independent member of the British Commonwealth, with Burnham as prime minister. [2] [5]

1970:

Guyana becomes a republic within the British Commonwealth with Raymond Arthur Chung as titular president. [2]

1978:

Nine hundred members of a religious sect commit mass suicide at Jonestown, a community established by sect leader Jim Jones. [2]

1980:

Guyana gets a new constitution and Burnham becomes the country's first executive president. [2]

The media is restricted and opposition parties harassed. [6]

1985:

Desmond Hoyte (PNC) becomes president following the death of Burnham; economy begins to deteriorate. [2]

1992:

PPP wins first completely free parliamentary elections since independence; Cheddi Jagan becomes president. [2]

Some economic growth is experienced. [6]

1997:

Jagan dies and is replaced by his wife, Janet, after elections. [2]

1998:

Government declares state of emergency in Georgetown in response to violent riots amid allegations of discrimination by PPP against Afro-Guyanese. [2]

1999:

Bharrat Jagdeo becomes president after Janet Jagan resigned for health reasons. [2]

2000:

Long-running dispute with Surinam over the offshore border comes to a head when Surinam gunboats evict an oil exploration rig from the area. Guyana had approved the exploration in the oil-rich disputed zone. [2]

2002:

July - TV presenter Mark Benschop charged with treason. Court says he encouraged protest in which presidential complex was stormed by demonstrators, who were complaining of discrimination against Afro-Guyanese. [2]

2003:

April - US embassy employee is kidnapped and released after a ransom is paid. The abduction is part of a wave of violent crime; the murder rate in 2002 quadrupled to more than 160. [2]

2004:

May - Home Affairs Minister Ronald Gajraj offers to step down while an inquiry is carried out into allegations that he is linked to a death squad accused of executing hundreds of suspected criminals. [2]

Suriname

1982-1983:

CIA organizes three unsuccessful coup attempts against Colonel Desi Bouterse. [1]

Ecuador

1960-1963:

According to a book by ex-CIA agent Philip Agee, the CIA staged a Communist takeover of Ecuador before backing a military coup, ousting elected President J. M. Velasco Ibarra, and again in 1963 the government of Carlos Julio Arosemena. Agee now lives in Cuba and is accused of being a "KGB shill", which all around is probably better for the health than staying in the US and being a CIA target. [1]

Peru

Summary

1948-1956: Elected government overthrown by "CIA pawn" Manuel Odria.

1968-1980: Overthrow of the elected government by the military dictatorship of School of Americas graduate Major General Juan Valesco Alvarado, initiating military rule for seven years.

1980-1990: After the reinstatement of democracy in 1980 the US involves itself under the auspices of the drug war.

1990-2000: US supports corruption and human rights abuses. Fujimori suspends democratic rule. SOA graduate presides over atrocities.

1948-1956:

Elected APRA government overthrown by Legion of Merit award winner and "CIA pawn" Manuel Odria. [1]

1968-1980:

Overthrow of the elected government by the military dictatorship of School of Americas graduate Major General Juan Valesco Alvarado, initiating military rule for seven years. Alvarado's junta ousts Belaunde Terry, who was resistant to nationalizing oil production and had devalued the Sol by over forty percent. Alvarado's leftist junta immediately nationalized oil production in 1968, but allowed foreign investors back in after 1971 under somewhat, for Peru, more generous contracts. The US had been providing training to Peruvian security forces for some time, similar in content to that elsewhere. [1]

1980-1990:

After the reinstatement of democracy in 1980 the US involves itself under the auspices of the drug war, during which it likely targets Peru with biological and chemical warfare programs. [1]

1990-2000:

Alberto Fujimori is president between 1990 to 2000, and the CIA delivers \$1 million a year to his intelligence chief Vladimiro Montesinos to fight drug trafficking, knowing that Montesinos is in bed with narcotraffickers, and helps him rig elections to keep Fujimori in office. The US provides military helicopters and advisors to the Peruvian military, amid reports from human rights groups that the military is engaged in serious human rights abuses including disappearances, torture, and rape. [1]

Fujimori suspends democratic rule and engages in a violent but successful crack down against Shining Path and Tupac Amaru. He also uses the suspension of democracy to enforce economic policies that plunge Peru deeper into poverty (minus an opulent minority of Peruvian and US business men). The SP is a brutal neo-Marxist/Leninist guerilla organization responsible for the murders of about 11,000 people, including "bourgeoisie" leftists. [1]

As part of the counter-insurgency Fujimori's security services form the Grupo Colina, headed by a former SOA graduate who was an officer in a Honduras death squad. Grupo Colina engages in numerous atrocities against civilians and contributes to the dramatic rise of human rights abuses, many targetting political opponents and journalists. Caught between a minority militant left and a dictatorial militant right: everybody else, particularly indigenous peoples living in oil rich areas. [1]

Fujimori goes into exile in Japan. Montesinos is caught on the run through Venezuela and extradited to Peru, where he is convicted of usurpation. [1]

Brazil

Summary

1961-1964: President Joao Goulart attempts to improve the lot of the Brazilian people and is overthrown in a US backed coup. The ensuing brutal dictatorship runs for 15 years and is a US ally.

2002: Foreign economic pressures lead to collapse of the real.

1961-1964:

President Joao Goulart is guilty of the usual crimes: He takes an independent stand in foreign policy, resuming relations with socialist countries and opposing sanctions against Cuba; his administration passes a

law limiting the amount of profits multinationals can transmit outside the country; a subsidiary of ITT is nationalized; he promotes economic and social reforms. And Attorney-General Robert Kennedy is uneasy about Goulart allowing "communists" to hold positions in government agencies. Yet the man is no radical. He is a millionaire land-owner and a Catholic who wears a medal of the Virgin around his neck. That, however, is not enough to save him. In 1964, he is overthrown in a military coup which has deep, covert American involvement. The official Washington line is...yes, it's unfortunate that democracy has been overthrown in Brazil...but, still, the country has been saved from communism.

For the next 15 years, all the features of military dictatorship that Latin America has come to know are instituted: Congress is shut down, political opposition is reduced to virtual extinction, habeas corpus for "political crimes" is suspended, criticism of the president is forbidden by law, labor unions are taken over by government interveners, mounting protests are met by police and military firing into crowds, peasants' homes are burned down, priests are brutalized...disappearances, death squads, a remarkable degree and depravity of torture...the government has a name for its program: the "moral rehabilitation" of Brazil. Washington is very pleased. Brazil breaks relations with Cuba and becomes one of the United States' most reliable allies in Latin America.[1] [2]

2002:

The election of the liberal candidate Luiz Lula to the presidency demonstrates how foreign economic pressures are put to bear in the form of self-fulfilling prophecies: "For months international investment banks have been downgrading Brazil's government bonds, saying that a Lula presidency would likely lead to a default. This caused the collapse of the real, which has led to rising prices for all imports, including oil, and a spike in interest rates." [2]

Bolivia

Summary

1967: October 9th - Ernesto "Che" Guevara is put to death by Bolivian soldiers, trained, equipped and guided by U.S. Green Beret and CIA operatives.

1971-1982: School of Americas graduate General Hugo Banzer Suarez leads a bloody coup in 1971 and installs a military dictatorship that represses, exiles, jails and kills labor leaders, leftist politicians, and Catholic aid workers who are attempting to aid Indians the regime had dispossessed.

In 1982 the CIA backs coup to overthrow Celso Torrelio.

1987: US Army assists raids in cocaine producing regions, with ineffective results.

Chile

Summary

1962-1977: Starting in 1962 the CIA begins interfering in Chilean elections, turning in 1964 to incubation of the military junta that in 1973 put Augusto Pinochet into power after a CIA backed overthrow of Salvador Allende (having failed to buy his opponents elections and a failed coup attempt in 1970, among others).

Salvador's government was replaced by a military dictatorship that suppressed and brutalized the country until 1990, with full US knowledge and complicity, and included assistance in the murder of political opponents. Allende's crime:

The US was supporting "anti-communist" factions in Chile as early as 1950. CIA activities recieved significant funding from the business community (allegedly Pepsi, from what I've read).

The AFL-CIO was also involved, continuing its long history of working against foreign labour unions.

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Allende's crime:

"Allende then proceeded towards strongly socialist policies based on his electoral victory, including a prices freeze, an increase in wages, nationalisation of the coal and steel industries, nationalisation of the main foreign copper firms, and of 60% of the private banks (Skidmore & Smith 2001, p127; Hudson 1994). Almost 500 firms would be nationalised (Hudson 1994). Workers often took the initiative, occupying the offices of foreign firms such as ITT and Ford until they were nationalised - this led to a partial financial blockade by the U.S., as well as the withholding of loans from the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Skidmore & Smith 2001, p127)."

--James Ferguson, The Struggle for Democracy: Chile and Argentina

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Salvador Allende was the worst possible scenario for a Washington imperialist. He could imagine only one thing worse than a Marxist in power-an elected Marxist in power, who honoured the constitution, and became increasingly popular. This shook the very foundation stones on which the anti-Communist tower was built: the doctrine, painstakingly cultivated for decades, that "communists" can take power only through force and deception, that they can retain that power only through terrorizing and brainwashing the population.

After sabotaging Allende's electoral endeavor in 1964, and failing to do so in 1970, despite their best efforts, the CIA and the rest of the American foreign policy machine left no stone unturned in their attempt to destabilize the Allende government over the next three years, paying particular attention to building up military hostility. Finally, in September 1973, the military overthrew the government, Allende dying in the process.

They closed the country to the outside world for a week, while the tanks rolled and the soldiers broke down doors; the stadiums rang with the sounds of execution and the bodies piled up along the streets and floated in the river; the torture centers opened for business; the subversive books were thrown into bonfires; soldiers slit the trouser legs of women, shouting that "In Chile women wear dresses!"; the poor returned to their natural state; and the men of the world in Washington and in the halls of international finance opened up their check-books. In the end, more than 3,000 had been executed, thousands more tortured or disappeared. [2]

Paraguay

1962-1975:

The dictatorship of a poor man's Nazi, Alfredo Stroessner, receives \$146 million in US aid, never receiving condemnations for its human rights abuses, the genocide of the indigenous Ache, drug trafficking and open arms policy for ex Nazis until the 1980s. The condemnation shortly precedes a 1988 coup. Stroessner takes exile in Brazil. [1]

Argentina

1976-1983:

Under USA's Ford administration Argentina's military dictatorship, involved in a wide ranging human rights abuses that are ignored by Washington, receives in the order of \$30 million a year in military aid. Congress and president Carter end military support in 1978. This is reversed by Reagan in 1981 and is ended again in 1982, after Argentina's generals invade the Falklands, a British colony. After the war and the consequential downfall of the military junta the US government obstruct efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice, using them later to train and mobilize the Honduras military and the contras - both groups implicated in gross abuses of human rights. The US government withholds extensive information relating to the fate of the disappeared until 2002. The Argentine junta murdered some 20-30,000 persons.[1]

Uruguay

1964-1971: US interferes in elections and supports repression.

1973: US backed military coup.

1964-1971:

Acting through the US client state in Brazil the US works to influence Uruguay's elections with intimidation of the voters and candidates amidst US supported violence, militant repression and increased use of torture as part of the counterinsurgency program. [1]

1973:

Failing to bring about a subservient government by meddling in elections and political repression, the US supports the military in their power grab. Purportedly the new government had the highest percentage of the population imprisoned for political reasons in the world. [1]

Falkland Islands

Summary

1690-1820: Sovereignty disputed by UK, France, Spain and Argentina.

1820- : Sovereignty disputed by UK and Argentina.

1960: UK ignores UN.

1965: UN calls for negotiation.

1968: Islanders prefer UK.

1973: UN urges negotiation, UK refuses.

1976: Negotiations resumed.

1980: Islanders prefer UK.

1982: Argentina invades. War ensues. UK scuppers two possible peace settlements and a ceasefire, apparently preferring military victory at the cost of nearly 1,000 dead, plus injured and over \$2 billion spent.

1986: UN demands negotiation.

1995: Mineral exploitation agreement.

1690:

The English captain John Strong heading a British expedition makes the first recorded landing in the Falklands. The British claim the islands for the crown and name the sound between the two main islands after Viscount Falkland, a British naval official. The name is later applied to the whole island group. [3] [4]

1764:

French colony at Fort St. Louis on East Falkland established by Louis Antoine de Bougainville, who claims the Islands for French King Louis XV. [1] [3] [4]

1765:

Captain John Byron of Tamar, sent to survey the Islands, lands at Port Egmont on Saunders Island in West Falkland which he names for the Earl of Egmont, First Lord of the Admiralty, and claims the Islands for King George III. [1] [3] [4]

1766:

Captain John McBride of Jason establishes a naval garrison called Fort George and a settlement called Jason's Town (after his ship) at Port Egmont in January, and in December discovers the French settlement at Fort St. Louis and demands that they leave. [1] [4]

1767:

French colony at Fort St. Louis is transferred to Spain upon payment of £25,000 compensation to de Bougainville, and renamed Puerto Soledad. [1] [3] [4]

1769:

English and Spanish ships meet while surveying the Islands and exchange letters each accusing the other of being in the Islands unlawfully. [1] [3] [4]

1776:

British led by Governor Samuel Clayton withdraw their naval garrison from Port Egmont, but leave a lead plaque claiming British sovereignty over all the Islands. [1] [4]

1790:

Spain and Britain sign Nootka Sound Convention in which Britain formally renounces 'all colonial ambition' in South America and adjacent islands. [1]

1806:

Spanish Governor Juan Crisostomo Martinez withdraws from Puerto Soledad, but leaves a plaque claiming Spanish sovereignty over all the Islas Malvinas. [1] [4]

1820:

The United Provinces of Rio de la Plata claim sovereignty over Islas Malvinas and send American mercenary Daniel Jewitt of Heroína to visit the Islands, assert their sovereignty and warn off whalers and sealers. [1] [3] [4]

1820-1841:

The United Provinces of Rio de la Plata and Britain dispute sovereignty of the islands. In 1841 dictator General Rosas offers to surrender the claim in return for the cancelation of debts owed by the United Provinces to the City of London. [1] [3] [4]

1843:

British Government formally annex the Islands and their dependencies by the issue of Letters Patent, and appoint Lt Moody as Governor of the Islands. [1]

1853:

The United Provinces of Rio de la Plata become the Argentine Republic. [1]

1854:

British insistence upon sovereignty over the Islands and surrounding waters results in a confrontation with US naval vessels. [1]

1884:

Argentina asks that the sovereignty dispute be submitted to international arbitration but Britain ignores the request. Argentina issues a new map showing the Islands as Argentine territory - Britain protests. [1]

1892:

British government makes the Islands a Crown colony. [1] [3]

1908:

British Government formally annexe South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, the South Orkney Islands, the South Shetland Islands and Graham Land by Letters Patent together declaring them the Falkland Islands' Dependencies. [1]

1914:

Opening of the Panama Canal means ships no longer round Cape Horn and so no longer put in to Stanley requiring provisions or repairs by shipwrights. WW1 opens in the South Atlantic with major naval engagements which become known as the Battle of Coronel and the Battle of the Falkland Islands. The Battle of the Falkland Islands secured the Cape Horn passage for the remainder of the war for Britain and its allies. [1]

1927:

Argentina asks the International Postal Union to accept Argentine jurisdiction over all the Falkland Islands Dependencies. [1]

1955:

Britain tries to bring to the International Court of Justice the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands Dependencies but Argentina refuses. [1]

1960:

UN Resolution 1514 calls for an end to colonialism. Britain lists the Islands as a colony and Argentina objects. [1]

1962:

Administration of South Orkney, South Shetland Islands and Graham Land transferred from Falkland Islands' Dependencies to the newly created British Antarctic Territory. [1]

1964:

Cessna 172 lands on Stanley racecourse - Argentine pilot Miguel Fitzgerald plants Argentine flag and hands over letter declaring Argentine sovereignty. United Nations Committee on Decolonisation discusses the future of the Islands. [1]

1965:

UN Resolution 2065 asserts that the Falklands/Malvinas constitute a colony and calls on Britain and Argentina to negotiate taking account of Islanders' interests. [1]

1966:

Argentine marines dropped off at night by submarine Santiago del Estero to reconnoitre potential landing beaches near Stanley. [1]

1967:

Labour Foreign Secretary George Brown opens sovereignty talks with Argentine Foreign Minister, stating Britain prepared to forego sovereignty if assured the Islanders' rights and way of life will be preserved. [1]

1968:

Minister of State Lord Chalfont fails to persuade Islanders of the advantages of an agreement with Argentina. Memorandum of Understanding reached between British and Argentine governments but dropped as a result of Lord Chalfont's visit to the Islands. British Parliament undertakes to make no change to sovereignty against the Islanders' wishes. [1]

1970:

Newly elected British Conservative government refuses to enter into sovereignty talks. [1]

1971:

Argentina agrees temporarily to shelve their claim to sovereignty while they try to win Islanders over. [1]

1973:

Newly elected Argentine Peronist government renews sovereignty claim in the UN which passes Resolution 3160 urging sovereignty negotiations. Britain refuses to discuss sovereignty. [1]

1974:

Britain proposes condominium government for the Islands but Islanders reject proposal. [1]

1975:

Diplomatic relations between Britain and Argentina are broken. [1]

1976:

British Antarctic Survey ship RRS Shackleton fired on by Argentine gunboat. UN Resolution 3149 urges sovereignty negotiations, and talks between Britain and Argentina resume. Argentina sets up clandestine military base on Southern Thule, a Falkland Islands Dependency situated south of South Georgia. [1]

1977:

Argentine sailors land on the island of Morrell in the South Sandwich Islands, claiming they are undertaking scientific research. Newly elected British Labour government reopens sovereignty negotiations and sends Minister of State Edward Rowlands to Islands to obtain Islanders' views. Britain secretly sends a nuclear submarine and two frigates to the South Atlantic in response to Argentine preparations for naval 'manoeuvres' which then halt. [1]

1980:

New talks held between Britain and Argentina in April. Minister of State Nicholas Ridley visits to discuss sovereignty dispute but fails to persuade Islanders to accept 'leaseback' proposal. [1]

1981:

British Nationality Act removes British nationality from any Falkland Islander who does not have a parent or grandparent born in Britain. Falkland Islands Government protest to British Parliament over sovereignty

negotiations. British Parliament reaffirms 'paramountcy' of Islanders' wishes. Argentina protests to UN over lack of progress on sovereignty dispute. [1]

1982:

January - Argentine Joint Armed Forces committee begins planning military invasion of Islands. Junta's plans to capture Islands revealed in a series of articles in La Prensa newspaper. [1]

February - Deputy foreign minister Richard Luce begins sovereignty talks with his Argentine counterpart Ernesto Ros in New York. [1] [2]

March - 1st-18th: British and Argentine deputy foreign ministers issue a joint communique praising the 'cordial and positive spirit' of sovereignty discussions held in New York. Argentine foreign minister rejects the communique and says that Argentina reserves the right to 'employ other means' if Britain keeps refusing to cede sovereignty. [1]

19th: Argentine scrap metal merchant Constantino Davidoff sends 40 workmen on naval vessel Bahia Buen Suceso to dismantle Leith whaling station on South Georgia - the workmen fail to ask permission to land from the British Antarctic Survey base at Grytviken and upon arrival hoist the Argentine flag. Britain lodges a formal protest. [1] [2] [3]

20th-26th: Thatcher sends Endurance and 24 Royal Marines from Stanley to South Georgia. Endurance arrives at Grytviken but earlier instructions to remove Argentine workmen are rescinded. Argentine naval vessel Bahia Paraíso puts a large quantity of stores ashore at Leith together with a marine detachment under the command of Captain Alfredo Astiz. The Argentine government says it will give all necessary protection to the workmen on South Georgia. British intelligence source in Buenos Aires warns that an Argentine invasion of the Islands is imminent but the British government dismisses the warning. Argentine navy set out on scheduled manoeuvres with the Uruguayan fleet. Argentine junta brings forward its invasion plans ('Operation Rosario') from a national holiday on 25 May or July 9 because of the South Georgia crisis and the worsening economic turmoil and civil unrest. British Ministry of Defence advises the government against a military response. [1] [2] [3]

27th: Argentine missile boats Drummond and Granville sail south to join Bahia Paraíso. [1]

28th: Argentina restates its claim to the Falkland Islands and Dependencies, tells Britain there will be no negotiations on South Georgia, cancels leave for military and diplomatic personnel, sends stores and equipment to the naval bases of Puerto Belgrano and Comodoro Rivadavia, and begins overflights of Stanley. 5 Argentine warships are sighted near South Georgia. Britain begins contingency planning for the sending of a task force to the Islands. Carrington asks US Secretary of State Alexander Haig to intercede with the junta in an attempt to avoid military action. [1]

29th: Joint Intelligence Committee reports an invasion seems imminent. Thatcher orders 3 nuclear submarines south to the Islands. British submarine Spartan sails south to the Islands from Gibraltar. Royal Fleet Auxiliary Fort Austin sails south to provide support for Endurance. New Royal Marine detachment arrive Stanley aboard research ship John Biscoe. [1]

31st: Junta takes final decision to invade the Islands on 2 April. Violent anti-government riots occur across Argentina. British intelligence source warns that the Argentine fleet is at sea heading towards the Islands. Chief of Navy Staff Admiral Sir Henry Leach advises a crisis meeting headed by Thatcher that Britain could and should send a task force if the islands are invaded. Governor Rex Hunt is informed Britain believes Argentina is planning a submarine landing on the Islands as a means of increasing pressure over South Georgia. Britain's US ambassador Sir Nicholas Henderson visits Haig in Washington and persuades him to take matters seriously. Thatcher telegraphs American President Ronald Reagan asking him to warn the Argentines off. Royal Marines commander Brigadier Julian Thompson is alerted to the crisis. [1]

April - 1st: UN Security Council meets at Britain's request and calls for restraint and avoidance of force. Reagan warns Argentine junta leader General Galtieri not to take military action. Britain prepares for the impending invasion by dispatching a submarine from Scotland and preparing a number of ships from the Mediterranean for sailing, as well as mobilising what forces are on the islands. [1]

2nd: Argentina moves ships into position off the islands on the 2nd April and lands ground forces at Mullet Creek and York Bay where they engage in battle with the Royal Marines. The main Argentine force lands at

Stanley and the governor of the islands orders the surrender. Royal Marines from South Georgia later attack the Argentine forces but are forced to surrender. Britain dispatches 9 naval ships from the Mediterranean. [1] [2] [3]

3rd-11th: The UN security council passes a resolution demanding immediate Argentine withdrawal from the islands, but Argentina refuses to comply. The UK deploys RAF elements to Ascension Island and dispatches another submarine from Scotland as well as two aircraft carriers and other ships from England. The British government announces it will impose a 200-mile exclusion zone around the islands on 26th April and freezes \$1.4 billion in Argentine assets held in British banks. The EEC imposes economic sanctions against Argentina on the 10th April. [1] [2] As Galtieri has predicted, the move proves to be extremely popular in Argentina. In Buenos Aires, where the unions had a week earlier demonstrated against the government, there are massive outbursts of solidarity in the streets. Thousands of Argentine conscripts lacking basic training are drafted in a hurry and sent to the islands. Argentina accumulates more than 10,000 troops on the Falklands. [3]

12th-18th: The UK declares a 200 mile exclusion zone on the 12th April, the day the first British submarine arrives off Stanley. An Argentine fleet leaves Puerto Belgrano 2 days later. Having made plans for retaking the islands the main British task force leaves Ascension Island on 17th April. US Secretary of State Alexander Haig presents the Argentine junta with a 5 point peace plan the same day. [1] [2] [3]

19th-27th: Argentina rejects the peace plan unless Britain agrees to transfer sovereignty by 31st December 1982 and allow Argentine nationals to settle in the Islands. The UK proceeds with the mission to reclaim the islands. South Georgia is recaptured by Royal Marines on the 25th April. [1] [2] [3]

28th-30th: On the 28th April the Organisation of American States supports Argentina's sovereignty claim but calls for peaceful negotiations. On the 29th April Argentina rejects a further peace plan from Haig. The US then declares support for Britain and imposes economic sanctions on Argentina. [1] [2] [3]

May - 1st: Initial British special forces landings and commencement of naval and air bombardment of Stanley. [1] [2] [3]

2nd-3rd: UN and Peru try to initiate peace talks. Galtieri gives preliminary acceptance of Peruvian proposal with some modifications. British sink the *General Belgrano* 30 miles outside the exclusion zone, killing 368 Argentinians. Galtieri then rejects the Peruvian peace plan citing the sinking of the *General Belgrano*. [1] [2] [3]

4th-11th: British destroyer *Sheffield* is hit by an exocet missile and later sinks, killing 20. British approve Peruvian peace plan. Britain extends total exclusion zone to 12 miles off Argentine coast. Argentinian government rejects Peruvian peace plan. Bombardment of Argentine positions on the islands continues. [1] [2] [3]

12th-20th: Argentine junta concedes that sovereignty of the Islands isn't a precondition to the UN peace plan. Britain's UN ambassador Sir Anthony Parsons sent back to New York with British peace proposals. SAS team landed in Argentina but they fail to destroy Argentine military aircraft at the Rio Grande base. Argentine junta rejects British peace proposals. British government rejects UN peace proposal. de Cuellar admits failure of UN peace talks. Thatcher orders task force into battle. [1] [2] [3]

21st-25th: British San Carlos landing begins. 4 British ships sunk, 2 British helicopters shot down, 40 Argentinian aircraft shot down. [1] [2] [3]

26th-29th: UN Security Council instructs de Cuellar to seek negotiated settlement. British retake Goose Green. 17 British die and 250 Argentinians. Organisation of American States condemns Britain's military action and calls on the US to stop helping Britain - only the US, Chile, Colombia and Trinidad & Tobago abstain. [1] [2] [3]

30th-31st: British retake Douglas, Mount Kent and Mount Challenger. Reagan asks Thatcher not to inflict too serious a defeat on the Argentines. [1] [2] [3]

June - 1st-4th: Argentine military envoys arrive in New York offering to surrender to the UN. Versailles summit opens. Reagan's 5-point plan given to Britain. Britain and US veto Panamanian-Spanish immediate ceasefire resolution in UN Security Council. Spain criticises Britain's military action, becoming the only NATO country not to support Britain. [1] [2] [3]

5th-13th: Versailles summit supports British position on the conflict. Battle at Fitzroy commences. Peru sends 10 Mirage jets to Argentina to replenish losses. Battle for Stanley begins as well as for other key locations. [1] [2] [3]

14th-21st: Argentinian forces surrender. 255 British have been killed and about 300 wounded. 11,845 Argentines are captured. EEC sanctions against Argentina are lifted. [1] [2] [3]

22nd-30th: Retired Army General Reynaldo Bignone replaces Galtieri as President of Argentina. Argentine army assumes full power, the Navy and Air Force withdrawing from the Junta. [1]

July - Argentine war toll set at 645 dead and missing. EEC agrees to provide financial aid to the Islands. USA ends trade sanctions against Argentina. Last Argentine prisoners of war repatriated. Britain admits to falsifying press releases during the war to mislead Argentina. Britain lifts the Exclusion Zone around the Islands. [1] [2]

From start to finish, this undeclared war lasted 72 days, claiming nearly 1000 casualties, many of them innocent conscripts drafted in a hurry by the Argentine junta. The war cost at least 2 billion dollars. From a political point of view, the war helps the reelection of Margaret Thatcher (who was losing popularity before the conflict started) and brought down Leopoldo Galtieri who is quick to resign afterwards, paving the road to the restoration of democracy in Argentina. [3]

November - UN General Assembly passes a resolution calling for a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute. [1]

1983:

Galtieri arrested and charged with military bungling of the war. [1]

Falkland Islanders are given full British citizenship. [1]

President Raul Alfonsín democratically elected in Argentina and reasserts Argentina's sovereignty claims. [1]

1984:

Talks between Argentina and Britain in Berne fail because Britain refuses to discuss sovereignty. [1]

1985:

South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands cease to be a Falkland Islands Dependency and become a United Kingdom Dependent Territory in their own right. [1]

Resumption of trading relations between Britain and Argentina. [1]

1986:

United Nations General Assembly adopt Argentine resolution demanding that Britain discuss all aspects of the Falkland Islands including sovereignty. [1]

1987:

Falkland Islands' Dependencies come to an end with the establishment of the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands as a separate British dependent territory. [1]

1989:

Newly-elected Argentine President Carlos Menem agrees to talks with Britain under 'sovereignty umbrella'. [1]

1990:

Resumption of diplomatic relations between Britain and Argentina. [1]

Britain lifts the 150-mile protection zone around the Islands. [1]

1991:

Sovereignty freeze over Antarctica renewed for a further 30 years. [1]

1994:

Amendment to Argentine Constitution ratifies Argentina's 'legitimate and imprescriptible sovereignty' over the Islands and makes their recovery 'a permanent and unrenounceable object of the Argentine people'. [1]

Argentina offers to pay for the clearance of mines in the Islands. [1]

1995:

British and Argentine governments sign a Joint Declaration designating a Special Area of Cooperation for the exploration and exploitation of offshore minerals. [1]

1996:

7 drilling licences awarded to 5 consortia to drill in the North Falkland Basin. [1]

1997:

Desire Petroleum formed to allow Islanders to participate in oil exploration. Falklands Offshore Sharing Agreement signed by the 5 consortia awarded drilling licences in which they agree to share a rig and other infrastructure. Cambridge Mineral Resources undertake the first onshore minerals prospecting. [1]

1998:

SV Borgny Dolphin undertakes exploratory oil drilling. [1]

UK relaxes embargo on sale of arms to Argentina. [1]

1999:

Agreement signed by Britain and Argentina and witnessed by councillors. Argentines permitted to visit the Islands in return for scheduled passenger flights over Argentine airspace, and mutual co-operation on fisheries issues. UK and Argentine military take part in joint exercises in South Atlantic. [1]

2000:

British and Argentine navies carry out first joint search and rescue exercise. Fisheries patrol vessel Dorada involved in joint fisheries research with Argentina. [1]

2005:

Falklands Oil and Gas Ltd commission major seismic survey of southern waters. [1]